



## **Position Description: Board of Directors**

Birds Connect Seattle is seeking passionate individuals with an interest in birds, conservation, and nonprofit leadership to serve on our Board of Directors.

## **Join Us in This Important Work**

The Board of Directors is the organization's governing body, vested with the oversight of business, property, policies, and programs of the organization. We operate in compliance with the nonprofit standards and obligations set forth by the Washington State Office of the Secretary of State.

We are a working board. Each board member has shared responsibilities in the governance and direction of the organization. Board service entails an average of 5-6 hours per month for meetings and committee work.

## **Required Qualifications**

1. Demonstrate a high degree of interest in Birds Connect Seattle and in participating as a working board member.
2. Reflect a personal connection to Birds Connect Seattle's mission, vision, and values.
3. Share a spirit of teamwork and collaboration in leadership, group discussions, and problem-solving.

## **Desired Strengths**

Birds Connect Seattle is currently seeking individuals with a background in one or more of these areas:

- Communications and Business Networking
- Equity and Justice
- Financial Management
- Fundraising or Philanthropy
- Human Resources
- Nonprofit Board Experience
- Science and/or Ornithology

## **Primary Responsibilities**

1. Be well informed about Birds Connect Seattle, its mission and goals, strategic plan, programs and priorities, budget and financial situation, and strengths and weaknesses.
2. Attend an initial board member orientation and subsequent board-development activities.
3. Perform board member duties responsibly, prudently, and ethically.
4. Prepare for and attend bi-monthly board meetings, and two annual board retreats.
5. Actively participate in outreach and fundraising activities.
6. Maintain annual membership dues.
7. Become a member of at least one Birds Connect Seattle committee.
8. Ask timely and substantive questions at board and committee meetings before making any decisions.
9. Serve the organization as a whole and work towards those decisions and solutions that are in its best interests.
10. Avoid/manage any conflict of interest or appearance of one; complete an annual Conflict of Interest form.
11. Read and understand the organization's financial statements and help the board fulfill its fiduciary responsibility.
12. Apply the aspirations outlined in the annual Board Commitment form.

## **Diversity Statement**

We are committed to identifying and dismantling systems of oppression in our organization and community, and to actively working toward an antiracist future. Communities of color world-wide are leading in this effort, as agents of their own liberation and for the protection of the environment. Birds Connect Seattle recognizes that the future strength of our organization rests firmly on our commitment to engage, value, and respect diverse communities. Women, BIPOC, LGBTQ, and other applicants from historically underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply.

## **How to Apply**

Birds Connect Seattle's Governance Committee, chaired by the Board Vice President, is charged with the recruitment and nomination of new members to the Board of Directors.

To apply, complete a [volunteer interest form](#) and endorse your interest in serving on the Board of Directors. A link to the registration form also is found to the right, under "Volunteer Resources." Your email confirmation will direct you to the staff contact for each role.

For general questions, please email [Volunteer@birdsconnectsea.org](mailto:Volunteer@birdsconnectsea.org).

*Please note: Board members are volunteers and are not financially compensated for their time.*

## **About Birds Connect Seattle**

### **Mission**

Birds Connect Seattle advocates and organizes for cities where people and birds thrive.

### **Vision**

Birds Connect Seattle envisions cities that integrate and value nature, minimize threats to birds, and protect habitat.

### **Values**

We are a community of passionate, talented, and unique individuals, and our service is Birds Connect Seattle's most valuable resource. As a staff-run and volunteer-powered organization, we value:

**Inspiration.** Birds inspire and inform conservation in a unique and powerful way.

**Interconnectedness.** The health of birds and their habitats is tied to human health.

**Equity and Inclusion.** Equity and inclusion are necessary to achieve our mission.

**Diversity.** Diverse perspectives strengthen our understanding of birds, our community, and the environment.

**Humility.** There are infinite ways to experience and enjoy birds and nature respectfully.

**Collaboration.** We are most successful when we collaborate within and outside the organization.

**Science.** Our policies and programs must be informed by science.

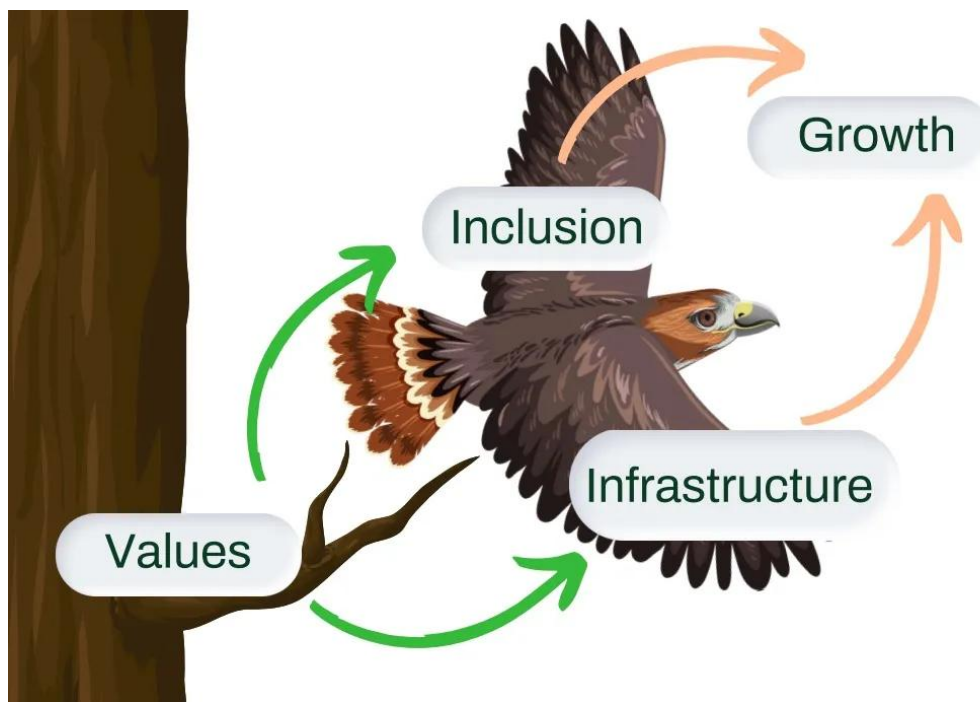
### **Legacy**

Founded in 1916, Birds Connect Seattle (then Seattle Audubon) is an independently incorporated chapter of the National Audubon Society and one of the oldest environmental organizations in the Pacific Northwest. A month after our founding, we began leading bird walks and field trips and continue that tradition over a hundred years later. In 1919, we pressed the city of Seattle to establish a bird sanctuary in Seward Park. In the 1920s, we began lobbying to protect raptors, owls, and other birds not protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act; we were ultimately successful in 1961.

In the 1960's, we lobbied the City of Seattle to make Fort Lawton a park rather than a missile base, and in 1973, it became Discovery Park. In the 1980's, we joined other

conservation groups in our decades-long efforts to protect the habitats of the Northern Spotted Owl and the Marbled Murrelet. We continue monitoring seabirds throughout the southern Salish Sea. These are just a few of the ways the employees and volunteers of Birds Connect Seattle have historically supported birds and the environment over the past several decades.

In July 2024, Birds Connect Seattle’s board voted to approve the “Spreading Our Wings” Strategic Plan, laying a flight plan for our priorities over the next three years. “Spreading Our Wings” firmly roots us in our values, expands our networks through inclusive programming and streamlined operations, and enables us to better support the birds and people in our service area, which extends from Kenmore to the north, Mercer Island to the east, Burien to the southwest and Renton to the southeast.



In July 2025, we completed one “wing” of our plan with a major transition from our Wedgwood headquarters to downtown Seattle. Our new headquarters is more easily accessed from all corners of our service area via public transportation. It provides Birds Connect Seattle with opportunities to engage with the community, foster new interest in birds and our work, and continue our conservation advocacy closer to the heart of city and county policymaking.